

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 16 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claim 13. Thus, claims 11, 12 and 14 – 16 remain pending in the present application and are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1 – 10.

Claims 11 – 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12 is now dependent upon claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that it is clear that Applicants intended to recite “calcium and magnesium” in claim 11. Applicants respectfully submit that the compound of formula (I) is used as a sequestering agent for calcium and magnesium in the form of bicarbonate, chloride and sulphate, as provided in claim 11 and in the specification on page 7, lines 5 – 7. Also, the compound of formula (I) is used as a sequestering agent for calcium in the form of calcium bicarbonate, as provided claim 12 and in the specification on page 7, lines 8 – 11.

Claims 14 and 15 now provide, in part, the “composition comprising the polymer described in claim 1.” Thus, the rejection to claims 14 and 15, for failing to provide a standard by which effective and non-effective amounts may be ascertained, are now moot.

Also, claims 15 and 16 now provide, in part, “comprising the polymer described in claim 1.” Thus, the rejection to claims 15 and 16, for being unclear is now moot.

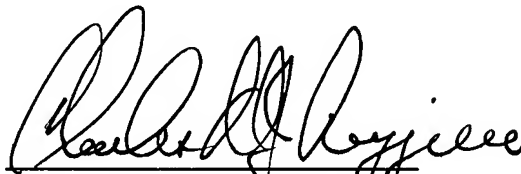
In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 11, 12 and 14 – 16 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 11, 12

and 14 – 16 are respectfully requested. Also, Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

July 25, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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